



SCHOOL DISTRICT 12
JOHNSBURG
INSPIRING OUR STUDENTS

Info 12

2010-2011 School Year
Winter, 2010

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*Director of Instructional
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Understanding School District Bonds

District 12 Board of Education

What does the word bond mean? According to Merriam-Webster, one definition is an interest-bearing certificate of public or private indebtedness. Another definition used by Investopedia, which is a better and more complete definition, is a debt investment in which an investor loans money to an entity (governmental or private) that borrows the fund for a defined period of time at a fixed interest rate. Now you may be asking, "Why is District 12 writing an article on bonds?" Well, there are a couple of reasons. Bonds are the main source used to finance large capital projects in the district, and were most recently used to construct the additions to Johnsburg Junior High and Johnsburg High School in 2000. The second reason is that the bond interest paid each year is a fairly large expense, and you need to be informed regarding any potential savings on this type of expense. Furthermore, the School Board wants to keep all the stakeholders informed of what is happening with school finances as it relates to Johnsburg Community Unit District 12.

We are currently in troubled financial times, as is evident when you look at your own personal budgets, and our administrative team has been working hard to find ways to cut the district budget without impacting the students. One way they have done this is by

working with the financial community to find a way to reduce our interest expense on bonds. With record low interest rates, it was evident that there could be potential savings on the interest we pay on our bonds. In fact, in December of 2009, the School Board was able to approve the restructuring of a bond that will retire a balance of \$6,050,000 in 2019. This specific bond was issued as a Series 1998 bond and was used for the school improvements mentioned earlier. The outcome of this restructuring, under the current market conditions, will result in the District saving approximately \$182,000 in bond interest.

These times are very difficult and we must continue to be fiscally responsible stewards of the tax payer's money. Looking for bond interest savings is no different than a homeowner looking to refinance the mortgage on their home. We are witnessing historically low interest rates and any homeowner who can refinance their mortgage at a lower interest rate can save thousands of dollars over the life of the loan, as the school district did on this bond. It's also our job to continue to look for additional ways to cut expenses and balance the budget as the district receives less and less revenue from the State in these tough economic times.

Johnsburg High School Leads the County in English Scores on the PSAE

Every April, all high schools across the state of the Illinois take the required Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). These exams assess a school's and individual students' performance in the areas of Math, English and Work Keys. The results of these assessments are communicated back to the schools in the fall. The schools use these results to foster continual yearly improvement as we constantly prepare our students for the challenges they will face in the future.

This year, we are extremely proud to inform our parents and community that Johnsburg

High School led the county in the English portion of the assessment on the Prairie State Achievement Exam. Over the past years, Johnsburg High School and the Johnsburg School District have made significant efforts to improve student achievement. Reading is the foundation for a successful educational experience for students. The efforts of Johnsburg High School and Johnsburg Schools have ensured that our students will be provided this solid educational foundation as they continue with their educational careers.

Dr. Johnson Named Superintendent of the Year

Congratulations to Dr. Dan Johnson, Superintendent of Johnsburg Schools for receiving the Illinois Principal's Association Kishwaukee Region Superintendent of the Year Award. Dr. Johnson was recognized by the

Board of Education during the November 23rd meeting, and will formally receive his award at the annual IPA Region Recognition Breakfast in Rockford in the spring. Congratulations, Dr. Johnson!

The State of the Curriculum

The middle of the school year provides a common theme for our staff, continuing a high level of rigor in the classroom. The work that our teachers have been charged with, above and beyond teaching in the classroom, is implementing strong lessons that ensure student learning and support of the new Common Core or the Learning Standards. The Common Core is the curriculum that 26 states have adopted as their states' curriculum; Illinois is one of those states.

Our teachers are in the process of writing common assessments in math and reading/language/literature that are in line with the Common Core. The purpose of these common assessments is two-fold;

1. Collect data on individual students and groups of students in order to assist staff in improving the delivery of instruction to improve student learning.

2. Improve the level of rigor (connection from our curriculum to the Learning Standards and/or Common Core) in the classroom.

As a parent of three school aged children, I can assure everyone, that it is essential that families be involved with their child's education. There are few gifts more valuable than the solid foundation that our schools offer the children of Johnsburg.

Our mission is to "create an environment which develops and inspires students to become productive life-long learners". This cannot be achieved alone; we ask that all families support at home, the learning that takes place in our classrooms.

Get involved, stay involved, and go the distance.



PTO Corner

The PTO is doing great things this year! Our Restaurant Nights and Teen Nights have been well attended. Our new Halloween Dance at the Junior High was a big success. Winter Wonderland was fantastic with all the new components; crafts, Santa's Secret Shop, etc. Thank you to everyone who participated in these fun events. The kids in our district benefit from each and every one of you!

January is right around the corner, so be sure to save some dates open for the many fun events that the PTO has planned. First, on Thursday, January 20, 2011 is our PTO **Restaurant Night** at Culver's in McHenry.

Also, in January, is our annual **Father/Daughter Dance** on Friday, January 28, 2011. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. at Ringwood School for picture taking and raffle opportunities before the dance from 7:00 -9:00 p.m. Buses will be running from

the High School due to limited parking. Be sure to look for the flyers coming home soon.

Finally, we have our **Market Day** pick-up on Saturday, January 29, 2011 from 9:45 -11:00 a.m. Keep forgetting to place your order? Ordering online is easy! Just go to www.Marketday.com. Orders can be placed as late as noon on the Wednesday before the Saturday delivery date.

Keep your eyes open for flyers coming home regarding the next Teen Night, the Harlem Wizards event and much more.

PTO meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00p.m. Meetings rotate between all of the four school buildings. Please check your PTO calendars for locations. We invite everyone to attend and would love to see you there!

Johnsburg Educational Partnership Foundation

Dates to Remember

18th Annual
"Shooting for the Stars"
Gala
Saturday,
March 5, 2011

18th Annual
Orange Ball
Golf Tournament
June, 2011

Events at Ringwood School Primary Center

Thanks to P.T.O. donations we were able to treat our students to two valuable assemblies. At the end of October we hosted "Journey Back in Time". This is a hands-on traveling museum focusing on pioneer life so students were able to catch a glimpse of what life was like in the 1800s.

In November we welcomed Bill Buczinsky, a former high school teacher turned poet and entertainer. He presented three assemblies for our pre-kindergarten through second graders and conducted four workshops for second graders. Students were exposed to rhythm, rhyming and poetry in a very creative, engaging way. Mr. Buczinsky then led our "Family Night" where over 180 people attended his presentation which was a culmination of the day's activities. Students per-

formed and he entertained parents with his talents.

Veterans Day is a special day at Ringwood School Primary Center. The children attended a hands-on exhibit put on by the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary. The representatives answered questions and spent a good deal of time with the children. In the afternoon 30 veterans were honored at the twelfth annual Veterans Day assembly. Cub Scout Packs 455 and 516 presented colors and students read compositions, sang songs and presented veterans with medals during the touching ceremony. A 95 year old veteran from World War II was present as well as two veterans from Johnsbury District #12 staff, Bob Sindler and Jesse Sallaz.



Johnsbury High School
Post Prom
Committee

Sweetheart
Pancake Breakfast

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sunday,
February 13, 2011

Castaway's /
Lions' Meat Raffle
Winner Must Be Present to Win

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Thursday,
March 3, 2011

JCB Students Participate in Virtual Field Trips To Enhance Learning

During the past month, the staff at James C. Bush Elementary School has been utilizing technology in new and different ways, such as streaming video and audio. This utilization of technology has opened the door for students and staff to experience subject matter and visit locations far from our Johnsbury community without ever leaving our school. Technology that is utilized in this manner for instructional purposes is often referred to as a virtual field trip.

On Veterans Day, James C. Bush Elementary School staff, students, and family members who had served or are currently serving in the armed services gathered together in the gymnasium to watch a live presentation of the McHenry County College Veterans Day Celebration. This was made possible by using our own district equipment and services to video tape and simultaneously stream the event over the Internet to the audience at James C. Bush Elementary School as well as to the public via the Johnsbury District 12 website.

James C. Bush Elementary School third graders took another virtual field trip on November 16th where they joined over one million students on a virtual field trip to Plimoth Plantation, the living museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts. During the trip, students traveled back in time to 1621, one year after the voyage of the Mayflower and one month after the famous feast of the First Thanksgiving.

The staff at James C. Bush Elementary School, in conjunction with the Johnsbury District 12 Instructional Technology Department, are excited to be able to utilize technology in new ways that enable our students to explore educational opportunities that make an experience such as life in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621 seem not so long ago or far away, while bringing a greater level of appreciation and understanding to students for these topics within the curriculum.

Athletic Booster Club Membership Drive at JHS

The Athletic Booster Club at Johnsburg High School would like to announce our officers for the 2010-2011 school year. They include Bruce Harbecke as our Athletic Director and Club Advisor, Margie Cherwin as President, Lora Myers as Vice-President, Kurt Jansen as Treasurer and Jeff Kiessel as Secretary. We are always in need of assistance from our athletes' families in supporting the teams and their equipment needs. Please join us at any of our monthly meetings.

Just a reminder for the holidays, if you'd like to give Skyhawk gear, we still have a supply of blankets, hoodies, etc. The blankets are a Skyhawk favorite and are a wonderful warm gift at \$40 each. They will come in handy for the

early spring sports too! Skyhawk gear can be purchased by contacting Margie Cherwin.

Already this year, the requests received by the Athletic Boosters have exceeded our expected income. We would love to be able to provide more, but we need your help. We are asking for your donations, in return for some Skyhawk rewards. For a donation of up to \$14.99, we will send you a Club member bumper sticker. For a donation between \$15 and \$34.99 we will send you a Skyhawk knit hat and a bumper sticker. For donations over \$35, we will send you a JHS stadium chair and a bumper sticker. Please check our website, www.jhsabc.org, to download a form that you can fill out and send in.

If you have trouble finding the form, please either send us an e-mail through the 'Contact Us' icon on the website, send an e-mail to Margie at smmartfarm@sbcglobal.net or call the JHS Athletic Department at (815) 385-4003. The website also contains a calendar of all of the home athletic events scheduled for winter. Many of the sports teams have signed up to work the stand and earn money for their team. When your student's coach asks for your help, please volunteer some time. Your team benefits directly.

If you have any questions on how we operate, please come to a meeting and ask!

Student Services in District 12

Johnsburg School District 12 actively locates, identifies and evaluates all children, who live within the district boundaries, including those attending St. John the Baptist Catholic School, who may qualify to receive early intervention, special education and/or related services. Child Find is one of the foundations of special education.

Screening procedures for early intervention or special education services include:

- Ongoing coordination with early intervention programs like Child and Family Connections, Head Start, local preschools and daycare facilities;
- Annual Pre-K screening of children under the age of five at Ringwood Primary Center during June;
- Ongoing review of all district children in general education classes via the Response to Intervention (Rtl) process;
- Coordination and consultation with St. John the Baptist Catholic School and parents of home-schooled children;
- Referrals from parents.

Services may address student needs in the areas of vision, hearing, health, behavior, fine or gross motor, sensory, speech/language, cognitive/learning, social/emotional, or adaptive/self-help. Pre-K phonological groups, pre-referral/Student Assistance Team meetings, Early Intervention transition meetings and the Response to Intervention process, including AIMSweb benchmarking K-8, coordinate interventions district-wide to help all students become successful learners. For those students attending non-public schools within our district boundaries, services are contracted with the school personnel based on individual needs.

It is important to locate children with disabilities so that interventions and support can be provided early on. Early Intervention services, special education instruction and related services are available for children with special needs from birth through age 21.

Don't Forget To Add Money To Your Lunch Accounts!

Many of our families take advantage of our food service offerings in each of our buildings every day. As we have a cash-less kitchen (cash is not accepted at the register), it is important to make sure your child's lunch account has funds in it *prior* to their lunch period.

While we still accept over-the-phone food service account transactions during business hours via credit card at, (815) 344-2803, we encourage you to take advantage of our 24-hour food service account system online if you have not already done so!

The online system is free to use, and accepts Visa and Mastercard credit or debit cards. Check out the system today, and feel free to call us with any questions!

Access the system through your internet browser at:

<http://familyaccess.johnsburg12.org>

Operation Teen Safe Driver at JHS

Operation Teen Safe Driver (OTSD) is a program offered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The program is a statewide initiative that is modeled on the nationally recognized Ford Driving Skills for Life, and is sponsored by Ford Motor Company and Allstate Insurance. This program provides grants of \$2,000 to a select number of schools throughout Illinois, in the hopes of promoting safe driving skills, such as buckling safety belts and not texting while driving (just to name a few).

We are proud to announce that we were one of 15 schools in a 6 county region to receive this Illinois Teen Safe Driving Grant. We are excited at the opportunities this grant gives us to continue promoting safe driving and seat belt usage among our teen drivers at JHS.

Our student committee already has plans for activities during lunch hours, as well

as during various extra-curricular activities this winter to promote safe driving for our JHS students. Creating awareness and partnering with the Johnsborg Community is an essential part of this program and our student committee wants your help and input as they look for ways to promote their activities and message throughout Johnsborg.

If your business would be willing to display a poster promoting OTSD in Johnsborg, or if you have any ideas on how to increase our community awareness of this program, please contact Rose Rayner at 815-385-9233 x124.

We will be regularly updating our school's website to showcase some of the exciting and beneficial events that the students are planning. Keep your eyes on the look out!



Johnsborg Schools Launch Enhanced Website

This past September, Johnsborg School District 12 launched new website through the assistance of Direct Response Web Solutions. Our new website features an new organized interface that assist our schools and District office communicate electronically with our parents.

If you have not already done so, we encourage you to check out the **Parent Corner** accessible from any page within the

website. The Parent Corner features many resources regarding upcoming events, food service, technology applications and services, child safety and health alerts, and many more!

We encourage you to take a moment to review the website in its entirety, and to share your feedback so that we can continue to update our website with upcoming information.

In addition, we have created a **Quick-Start Guide** to our website, accessible from the front page of Johnsborg12.org. Please take an opportunity to download and view this guide, as it will assist you in finding additional information that you might be looking for!

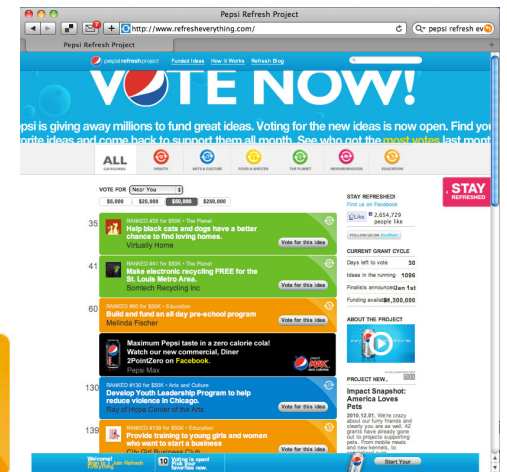
Johnsborg Junior High School Needs Your Vote

Johnsborg Junior High School needs your support and vote! Teachers at Johnsborg Junior High are applying for a competitive grant through Pepsi's Refresh Everything Campaign.

The grant would provide \$50,000 to our district to build an environmentally friendly greenhouse and outdoor amphitheatre classroom.

Voting begins on December 1st and continues until midnight on December 31st. Voting is free and we hope to be one of the top ten projects to receive funding.

Information on how to vote can be picked up at the Junior High and was sent home to students in grades K-8 earlier this month. Thanks for your support!



 RANKED #311 for \$50K + Education

Build a "Green" Greenhouse at JJHS

Johnsborg Junior High

[Vote for this idea](#)

2010-11 School Calendar

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Monday, January 3, 2011 School Resumes		Monday, March 28, 2011 Spring Break Begins	
Friday, January 14, 2011 Teacher Institute Day	No School	Monday, April 4, 2011 School Resumes	
Monday, January 17, 2011 M.L. King's Birthday	No School	Friday, April 22, 2011 School Not In Session	No School
Thursday, February 17, 2011 Parent Teacher Conferences	No School	Friday, May 6, 2011 Teacher Institute Day	1/2 Day of School
Friday, February 18, 2011 School Not In Session	No School	Friday, May 27, 2011 School Improvement Day	1/2 Day of School
Monday, February 21, 2011 President's Day	No School	Monday, May 30, 2011 Memorial Day	No School
Friday, March 18, 2011 School Improvement Day	1/2 Day of School	Thursday, June 2, 2011 Last Day of School	Last Day of School if No Emergency Days Used
